

## SIL

SILK WORM. *n. f.* [*silk* and *worm*.] The worm that spins silk. Grasshoppers eat up the green of whole countries, and silk-worms devour leaves swiftly. *Bacon's Natural History.*

A purer web the silk-worm never drew. *Dryden.*

SILKY. *adj.* [from *silk*.]

1. Made of silk.

2. Soft; pliant.

These kind of knaves, in plainness,  
Harbour more craft, and more corrupter ends  
Than twenty silky ducking observants,  
That stretch their duties nicely. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

SILL. *n. f.* [*ryl*, Sax. *fuil*, French; *sulle*, Dutch; *fulgan*, to found, Gothic.] The timber or stone at the foot of the door.

The farmer's goole,  
Grown fat with corn and fitting fill,  
Can scarce get o'er the barn-door sill:  
And hardly waddles forth. *Swift.*

SILLABUB. *n. f.* [This word has exercised the etymologists. *Milnes* thinks it corrupted from *saillingbubblis*. *Junius* omits it. *Hanbani*, whom *Skinner* follows, deduces it from the Dutch *fulle*, a pipe, and *buck*, a paunch; because *sillabubs* are commonly drunk through a spout, out of a jug with a large belly. It seems more probably derived from *esil*, in old English *vinegar*, *esil* a *bace*, *vinegar* for the mouth, *vinegar* made pleasant.] Curds made by milking upon vinegar.

Joan takes her neat rubb'd pail, and now  
She trips to milk the fad-red cow;  
Where, for some sturdy foot-ball swain,  
Joan strokes a *sillabub* or twain. *Wotton.*

A feast,  
By some rich farmer's wife and sister dress'd,  
Might be remembered to a sick man's dream,  
Where all ideas huddling run for fast,  
That *sillabubs* come first, and soups the last. *King.*

SILLY. *adv.* [from *silly*.] In a silly manner; simply; foolishly.

I wonder, what thou and I  
Did, till we lov'd? were we not wean'd till then,  
But suck'd on childish pleasures *silly*?  
Or slumber'd we in the seven sleepers den? *Donne.*

We are caught as *silly* as the bird in the net. *L'Estrange.*

Do, do, look *silly*, good colonel; 'tis a decent melancholy after an absolute defeat. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*

SILLINESS. *n. f.* [from *silly*.] Simplicity; weakness; harmless folly.

The *silliness* of the person does not derogate from the dignity of his character. *L'Estrange.*

SILLY. *adj.* [*selig*, German. *Skinner*.]

1. Harmless; innocent; inoffensive; plain; artless.

2. Weak; helpless.

After long storms,  
In dread of death and dangerous dismay,  
With which my *silly* bark was tossed fore,  
I do at length desery the happy shore. *Spenser.*

3. Foolish; witless.

Perhaps their loves, or else their sheep,  
Was that did their *silly* thoughts so busy keep. *Milton.*

The meanest subjects censure the actions of the greatest princes, the *silliest* servants, of the wisest master. *Temple.*

I have no discontent at living here; besides what arises from a *silly* spirit of liberty, which I resolve to throw off. *Swift.*

Such parts of writings as are stupid or *silly*, false or mistaken, should become subjects of occasional criticism. *Watts.*

SILLYHOW. *n. f.* [Perhaps from *ryly*, happy, and *peop*, the head.] The membrane that covers the head of the fœtus.

Great conceits are raised, of the membranous covering called the *sillyhow*, sometimes found about the heads of children upon their birth. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

SILT. *n. f.* Mud; slime.

Several trees of oak and fir stand in firm earth below the moor, near Thorny, in all probability covered by inundation, and the *silt* and moorish earth exaggerated upon them. *Hale.*

SILVAN. *adj.* [from *silva*, Latin.] Woody; full of woods.

Between two rows of rocks, a *silvan* scene  
Appears above, and groves for ever green. *Dryden.*

SILVER. *n. f.* [*ryolcey*, Saxon; *silver*, Dutch.]

1. Silver is a white and hard metal, next in weight to gold. *Watts's Logick.*

2. Any thing of soft splendour.

Pallas, piteous of her plaintive cries,  
In slumber clos'd her *silver*-streaming eyes. *Pope.*

3. Money made of silver.

SILVER. *adj.*

1. Made of silver.

Put my *silver* cup in the sack's mouth. *Gen. xlv. 2.*

Hence had the huntress Dian her dread bow,  
Fair *silver*-thatched queen for ever chaste. *Milton.*

The *silver*-thatched goddess of the place. *Pope's Odyssey.*

3. White like silver.

Of all the race of *silver*-winged-fles  
Was none more favourable, nor more fair,  
Than Clarion. *Spenser.*

## SIM

Old Salisbury, shame to thy *silver* hair,  
Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son. *Shakespeare.*

The great in honour are not always wise,  
Nor judgment under *silver* tresses lies. *Sandy.*

Others on *silver*-lakes and rivers bath'd  
Their downy breast. *Milton.*

4. Having a pale lustre.

So sweet a kiss the golden sun gives not  
To those fresh morning drops upon the rose,  
As thy eye beams, when their fresh rays have smote  
The night of dew that on my cheeks down flows;  
Nor shines the *silver* moon one half so bright,  
Through the transparent bosom of the deep,  
As doth thy face through tears of mine give light. *Shakespeare.*

Soft of voice. This phrase is Italian, *voce argentina*.

From all their groves, which with the heavenly noises,  
Of their sweet instruments were wont to found,  
And th' hollow hills, from which their *silver* voices  
Were wont redoubled echoes to rebound,  
Did now rebound with nought but rueful cries,  
And yelling shrieks thrown up into the skies. *Spenser.*

It is my love that calls upon my name,  
How *silver* sweet found lovers tongues by night,  
Like softest music to attending ears. *Shakespeare.*

To SILVER. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To cover superficially with silver.

There be fools alive, I wis,  
*Silver'd* o'er, and so was this. *Shakespeare.*

The splendour of silver is more pleasing to some eyes, than that of gold; as in cloth of silver, and *silver'd* rapiers. *Bacon.*

*Silvering* will fully and canker more than gilding. *Bacon.*

A gilder shewed me a ring *silver'd* over with mercurial fumes, which he was then to refore to its native yellow. *Boyl.*

2. To adorn with mild lustre.

Here retir'd the flanking billows sleep,  
And smiling calmness *silver'd* o'er the deep. *Pope.*

SILVERBEATER. *n. f.* [*Silver* and *beat*.] One that foliates silver.

*Silverbeaters* chuse the finest coin, as that which is most extensive under the hammer. *Boyl.*

SILVERLING. *n. f.*

A thousand vines, at a thousand *silverlings*, shall be for briars and thorns. *Isaiah vii. 23.*

SILVERLY. *adv.* [from *silver*.] With the appearance of silver.

Let me wipe off this honourable dew  
That *silverly* doth progress on thy cheeks. *Shakespeare.*

SILVERSMITH. *n. f.* [*Silver* and *smith*.] One that works in silver.

Demetrius a *silversmith*, made shrines for Diana. *Acts xix.*

SILVERTHISTLE. *n. f.* Plants.

SILVERTREE. *n. f.* [*concordedendron*, Latin.] A plant.

The leaves throughout the year are of a fine silver colour; it hath an apetalous flameous flower, which is surrounded by a number of long leaves immediately under the flower-cup, which consists of five narrow leaves; these are succeeded by cones, in shape like those of the larch-tree; the seeds are each of them included in a square cell. *Miller.*

SILVERY. *adj.* [from *silver*.] Besprinkled with silver.

A gritty stone, with small spangles of a white *silvery* tale in it. *Woodward on Puffin.*

Of all th' enamel'd race whose *silvery* wing  
Waves to the tepid zephyrs of the spring,  
Once brightest shin'd this child of heat and air. *Dunciad.*

SILMAR. *n. f.* [*simar*, French.] A woman's robe.

The ladies dress'd in rich *silmars* were seen,  
Of Florence Yatin, flower'd with white and green. *Dryden.*

SIMILAR. *adj.* [*similaire*, French; from *similis*, Latin.]

1. Homogeneous; having one part like another.

Minerals appear to the eye to be perfectly *similar*, as metals; or at least to consist but of two or three distinct ingredients, as cinnabar. *Boyl.*

2. Resembling; having resemblance.

The laws of England, relative to those matters, were the original and exemplar from whence those *similar* or parallel laws of Scotland were derived. *Hale's Hist. of Com. Law of En.*

SIMILARITY. *n. f.* [from *similar*.] Likeness.

The blood and chyle are intimately mixed, and by attrition attenuated; by which the mixture acquires a greater degree of fluidity and *similarity*, or homogeneity of parts. *Arbuthnot.*

SIMILE. *n. f.* [*simile*, Latin.] A comparison by which any thing is illustrated or aggrandized.

Their rhimes,  
Full of protest, of oath, and big compare,  
Want *similes*. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*

Lucentio slip'd me, like his greyhound,  
Which runs himself, and catches for his master.  
A good swift *simile*, but something curiish. *Shakespeare.*

## SIM

In argument,  
*Similes* are like songs in love, *Prior.*

They much describe; they nothing prove. *Prior.*

Poets, to give a loose to a warm fancy, not only expatiate in their *similes*, but introduce them too frequently. *Garth.*

SIMILITUDE. *n. f.* [*similitudo*, French; *similitudo*, Latin.]

1. Likeness; resemblance.

*Similitudo* of substance would cause attraction, where the body is wholly freed from the motion of gravity; for then lead would draw lead. *Bacon's Natural History.*

Our immortal souls, while righteous, are by God himself beautified with the title of his own image and *similitudo*. *Ral.*

Let us make man in our image, man  
In our *similitudo*, and let them rule *Milton.*

*Similitudo* to the Deity was not regarded in the things they gave divine worship to, and looked on as symbols of the god they worshipped. *Stillingfleet.*

If we compare the picture of a man, drawn at the years of seventeen, with that of the same person at the years of threescore, hardly the least trace or *similitudo* of one face can be found in the other. *Saunders's Sermons.*

Fate some future bard shall join,  
In sad *similitudo* of griefs to mine,  
Condemn'd whole years in absence to deplore,  
And image charms he must behold no more. *Pope.*

2. Comparison; simile.

Plutarch, in the first of his tractates, by sundry *similitudes*, shews us the force of education.

Tasso, in his *similitudes*, never departed from the woods; that is, all his comparisons were taken from the country. *Dryd.*

SIMILAR. *n. f.* [See CRAMER.] A crooked or falcatated sword with a convex edge.

To SIMMER. *v. n.* [A word made probably from the found, but written by *Skinner*, *simber*.] To boil gently; to boil with a gentle hissing.

Place a vessel in warm sand, increasing the heat by degrees, till the spirit *simmer* or boil a little. *Boyle.*

Their vital heat and moisture may always not only *simmer* in one sluggish tenour, but sometimes boil up higher, and seeth over; the fire of life being more than ordinarily kindled upon some emergent occasion. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*

SIMNEL. *n. f.* [*simnellus*, low Latin.] A kind of sweet bread or cake.

SIMONIAK. *n. f.* [*simoniaque*, French; *simoniacus*, Latin.] One who buys or sells preferment in the church.

If the bishop alleges that the person presented is a *simonia*, or unlearned, they are to proceed to trial. *Aschiff.*

SIMONICAL. *adj.* [from *simonia*.] Guilty of buying or selling ecclesiastical preferment.

Add to your criminals the *simonica* ladies, who seduce the sacred order into the difficulty of breaking their troth. *Speet.*

SIMONY. *n. f.* [*simonia*, French; *simonia*, Latin.] The crime of buying or selling church preferment.

One that by suggestion  
Tied all the kingdom; *simony* was fair play,  
His own opinion was his law. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

Many papers remain in private hands, of which one is of *simony*; and I with the world might see it, that it might undeceive some patrons, who think they have discharged that great trust to God and man, if they take no money for a living, though it may be parted with for other ends less justifiable. *Walter's Life of Bishop Sanderson.*

No *simony* nor sinecure is known;

There works the bee, no honey for the drone. *Garth.*

To SIMPER. *v. n.* [from *rymbelan*, Saxon, to keep holiday, *Skinner*.] He derives *simper* from the same word, and confirms his etymology by writing it *simber*. It is perhaps derived from *simmer*, as it may seem to imitate the dimples of water gently boiling.] To smile; generally to smile foolishly.

A made countenance about her mouth between *simpering* and smiling, her head bowed somewhat down, seemed to languish with over much idleness. *Sidney.*

I charge you, O men, for the love you bear to women, as I perceive by your *simpering* none of you hate them, to like as much as pleases them. *Shakespeare's As you like it.*

Stars above *simper* and shine,  
As having keys unto thy love, while poor I pine. *Herbert.*

Let then the fair one beautifully cry,  
Drest in smiles of sweet Cecilia shine,  
With *simpering* angels, palms and harps divine. *Pope.*

SIMPER. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Smile; generally a foolish smile.

The wit at his elbow stared him in the face, with so bewitching a grin, that the whistler relaxed his fibres into a kind of *simper*, and at length burst out into an open laugh. *Add.*

Great Tibbald nods: the proud Parnassian sneer,  
The conscious *simper*, and the jealous leer,  
Mix on his look. *Pope's Dunciad.*

## SIM

SIMPLE. *adj.* [*simplex*, Latin; *simple*, French.]

1. Plain; artless; unskilled; undeigning; sincere; harmless.

Were it not to satisfy the minds of the *simpler* sort of men, these nice curiosities are not worthy the labour which we bestow to answer them. *Hooker.*

They meet upon the way,  
A *simple* husbandman in garments grey. *Habberd's Tale.*

I am a *simple* woman, much too weak  
To oppose your cunning. *Shakespeare's Hen. VIII.*

O Ethelinda,  
My heart was made to fit and pair with thine,  
Simple and plain, and fraught with artless tenderness. *Rowe.*

2. Uncompounded; unmingled; single; only one; plain; not complicated.

To make the compound pass for the rich metal *simple*, is an adulteration or counterfeiting. *Bacon.*

*Simple* philosophically signifies single, but vulgarly foolish. *Watts.*

Among substances some are called *simple*, some compound, whether taken in a philosophical or vulgar sense. *Watt.*

If we take *simple* and compound in a vulgar sense, then all those are *simple* substances which are generally esteemed uniform in their natures: so every herb is called a *simple*, and every metal a mineral; though the chymist perhaps may find all his several elements in absence of them. *Watts's Logick.*

Let Newton, pure intelligence, whom God  
To mortals lent, to trace his boundless works,  
From laws, sublimely *simple*, speak thy fame  
In all philosophy. *Thomson's Summer.*

3. Silly; not wise; not cunning.

The *simple* believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going. *Prov. xv.*

I would have you wife unto that which is good, and *simple* concerning evil. *Rom. xvi. 19.*

Dick, *simple* odes too many show  
My fervile complaisance to Cloe. *Prior.*

SIMPLE. *n. f.* [*simple*, French.] A single ingredient in a medicine; a drug. It is popularly used for an herb.

Of *simples* in these groves that grow,  
We'll learn the perfect skill;  
The nature of each herb to know,  
Which cures, and which can kill. *Drayton's Q. of Cynthia.*

Our softer nurse of nature is repose,  
The which he lacks; that to provoke in him,  
Are many *simples* operative, whole power  
Will close the eye of anguish. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

He would ope his leathern scrip,  
And shew me *simples* of a thousand names,  
Telling their strange and vigorous faculties. *Milton.*

What virtue is in this remedy lies in the naked *simple* itself, as it comes over from the Indies. *Temple.*

Around its entries nodding poppies grow,  
And all cool *simples* that sweet rest bestow;  
Night from the plants their sleepy virtue drains,  
And passing, sheds it on the silent plains. *Dryden.*

Medicine is mine: what herbs and *simples* grow  
In fields and forests, all their powers I know,  
And am the great physician call'd. *Dryden.*

To SIMPLE. *v. n.* To gather simples.

As once the foaming boar he chas'd,  
Lascivious Circe well the youth survey'd,  
As *simpling* on the flow'ry hills he stray'd. *Garth.*

SIMPLESS. *n. f.* [*simple*, French.] Simplicity; filliness; folly.

An obsolete word.

Their weeds been not so nightly were,  
Such *simple* mought them then,  
They been yclad in purple and pall,  
They reign and rule over all. *Spenser's Pastorals.*

I will hear that play;

For never any thing can be amiss,  
When *simples* and duty tender it. *Shakespeare.*

Such perfect elements may be found in these four known bodies that we call pure ones; for they are least compounded, and approach most to the *simples* of the elements. *Digby.*

SIMPLER. *n. f.* [from *simple*.] A simplist. An herbarist.

SIMPLETON. *n. f.* [from *simple*.] A silly mortal; a trifler; a foolish fellow. A low word.

A country farmer sent his man to look after an ox; the *simpleton* went hunting up and down till he found him in a wood. *L'Estrange.*

Those letters may prove a discredit, as lasting as mercenary scribbles, or curious *simpletons* can make it. *Pope.*

SIMPLICITY. *n. f.* [*simplicitas*, Latin; *simplicité*, French.]

1. Plainness; artlessness; not subtilty; not cunning; not deceit.

The sweet-minded Philoclea was in their degree of well doing, to whom the not knowing of evil serveth for a ground of virtue, and hold their inward powers in better form, with an unspotted *simplicity*, than many who rather cunningly seek to know what goodness is, than willingly take unto themselves the following of it. *Sidney.*

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